

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Recovery Services Administration 626 8th Ave. S.E. PO Box 45530 Olympia, WA 98504-5530

February 4, 2009

TO:

Community Service Office-Based Family Planning Nurse Contractors

FROM:

Todd Slettvet, Section Manager

Family Healthcare Services

Division of Healthcare Services

Health & Recovery Services Administration

SUBJECT:

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE-BASED FAMILY PLANNING

NURSE CONTRACTS

The termination of the Community Service Office (CSO) Family Planning Nurse contracts has been rescinded by Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA). However, HRSA has received numerous calls and e-mails concerned that the contracts may not be continued beyond June 30, 2009, when most of the contracts will normally expire.

HRSA wants to assure you that we fully intend to renew all contracts effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011 as part of our budget. However, that budget must first be approved and authorized by the Legislature. This has always been the case since the contracts' inception during the mid-1990's. As you know, the State is facing a \$6 billion deficit, and every state-funded program is being evaluated and scrutinized. It is impossible to guarantee at this time that any specific program, including the CSO Family Planning Nurse contracts, will be funded.

As we move forward in anticipation of renewing the contracts, we will be working with the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure that contracts are in full compliance with federal claiming guidelines. We will also explore ways to enhance data collection in order to show how well we are achieving program goals. As directed by CMS, some alterations to the contracts may be required in order to claim the 90-10 federal match. HRSA program and contract staff will be working diligently to update contract language as needed and improve program consistency across the state.

If you have any questions or additional concerns, please contact Sheryl Hermanson at 360-725-1665 or by email to hermasl@dshs.wa.gov.